

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       An apparatus for playing back first data having audio  
2   information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing  
3   second data, the apparatus comprising:  
4                   a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the first data;  
5                   a data store configured to receive at least some of the first data;  
6                   a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process  
7   data contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based at  
8   least on the second data; and  
9                   a control circuit configured to selectively output the first data based on  
10   the detection result.

1                   2.       The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a data selection  
2   circuit configured to select a first data subset of the first data, the data selection circuit  
3   coupled to deliver the first data subset to the data store, wherein the detecting circuit  
4   processes the first data subset.

1                   3.       The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the capacity of the data store  
2   is equal to or greater than the minimum size of the first data subset.

1                   4.       The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting circuit is further  
2   configured to produce a signal indicating the completion of processing of the first data  
3   subset, wherein the selection circuit selects, in response to the signal, a second data  
4   subset of the first data, and wherein the second data subset replaces the first data  
5   subset.

1                   5.       The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting circuit is further  
2   configured to produce a signal indicating that the first data subset has been delivered  
3   to the data store, and wherein the selection circuit selects, in response to the signal, a  
4   second data subset from the first data for delivery to the data store.

1                   6.       The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first data is an ISO-  
2   MPEG 2 formatted data stream, and wherein the first data subset is an I-picture.

1                   7.       The apparatus of claim 1 further including a data bus coupled  
2 only between the detection circuit and the control circuit, wherein the detection circuit  
3 produces a signal representative of the detection result, the signal being sent to the  
4 control circuit via the data bus.

1                   8.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces  
2 a signal representative of the detection result, the detection circuit further configured  
3 to encode the signal using a decryption key, the control circuit further configured to  
4 receive the encoded signal and to decode the signal using the decryption key.

1                   9.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces  
2 a signal representative of the detection result, wherein the detection circuit and the  
3 control circuit are further configured to exchange authentication data with each other,  
4 and wherein the detection circuit is further configured to deliver the signal to the  
5 control circuit when the detection circuit makes a positive determination that the  
6 control circuit is permitted to receive the signal.

1                   10.      The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the detection circuit is further  
2 configured to encode the signal using the authentication data, and the control circuit is  
3 further configured to receive the encoded signal and to decode the signal using the  
4 authentication data.

1                   11.      The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces  
2 a first signal when processing of data in the data store produces the detection result a  
3 first predetermined number of times in succession, the control circuit selectively  
4 outputting the first data in response to the signal.

1                   12.      The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the detection circuit,  
2 subsequent to producing the first signal, produces a second signal when processing of  
3 data in the data store produces a second detection result a second predetermined  
4 number of times in succession, the control circuit selectively outputting the first data  
5 in response to the first and second signals.

1                   13.      The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first data is ISO-MPEG 2  
2 formatted.

1           14.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store receives at least  
2     some of the first data at a data rate equal to a data rate at which the reproduction  
3     processing circuit produces the first data.

1           15.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store is further  
2     configured to output data contained therein at the same time it receives at least some  
3     of the first data.

1           16.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store receives at least  
2     some of the first data at a first data rate equal to a data rate at which the reproduction  
3     processing circuit produces the first data,

4                 wherein the detecting circuit is further configured to produce a signal  
5     indicating a second data rate, and

6                 wherein the data store is further configured to output the data  
7     contained therein at the second data rate in response to the second signal.

1           17.     The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detecting circuit is further  
2     configured to receive data contained in the data store at a third data rate and process  
3     the data to produce a detection result at a fourth data rate, wherein the fourth data rate  
4     is equal to or greater than the third data rate.

1           18.     An apparatus for playing back first data in an information  
2     recording medium, the first data containing second data, the apparatus comprising:  
3                 a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the first data;  
4                 a data store configured to receive at least some of the first data;  
5                 a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process  
6     data contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based at  
7     least on the second data; and

8                 a control circuit configured to selectively output the first data based on  
9     the detection result and the type of the information recording medium.

1           19.     A method for accessing first data having audio information,  
2     visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing second data,  
3     the method comprising:

4                 receiving the first data from a data source;  
5                 storing the first data in a data store;

6                   producing a detection result by processing data in the data store, the  
7   detection result based at least on the second data;  
8                   selectively outputting the first data based on the detection result.

1                   20.     The method of claim 19 wherein selectively outputting is  
2   further based on the type of the data source.

1                   21.     An apparatus for playing back first data having audio  
2   information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing  
3   second data, the apparatus comprising:  
4                   first means for providing the first data from a data source;  
5                   second means, coupled to the first means, for storing at least some of  
6   the first data;  
7                   third means for producing a detection result, including means for  
8   processing data stored in the second means; and  
9                   fourth means, operatively coupled to the third means, for outputting the  
10   first data based on the detection result.